THE LINE OF
DC
SUPER-STARS
"THE WRATH OF THE SPECTRE!"
20c
NO. 431
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ADVENTURE COMICS
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COMICS
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Getting a Daisy B·B Gun is like getting a good grade.

You have to work for it.

We want every boy to enjoy the thrill of owning a Daisy. But we want him to be ready.

You see, a Daisy is a gun. It's not a toy.

You have to be ready to learn marksmanship and proper gun handling. It's a big responsibility.

What kind of boy is ready for his Daisy?

You can tell by the way he handles other things. Like schoolwork, and jobs around the house. He knows how to take serious things seriously.

He knows a gun is no laughing matter. And when he gets his Daisy, he grows up a little more. Because nothing teaches marksmanship and proper gun handling like a Daisy B·B Gun.

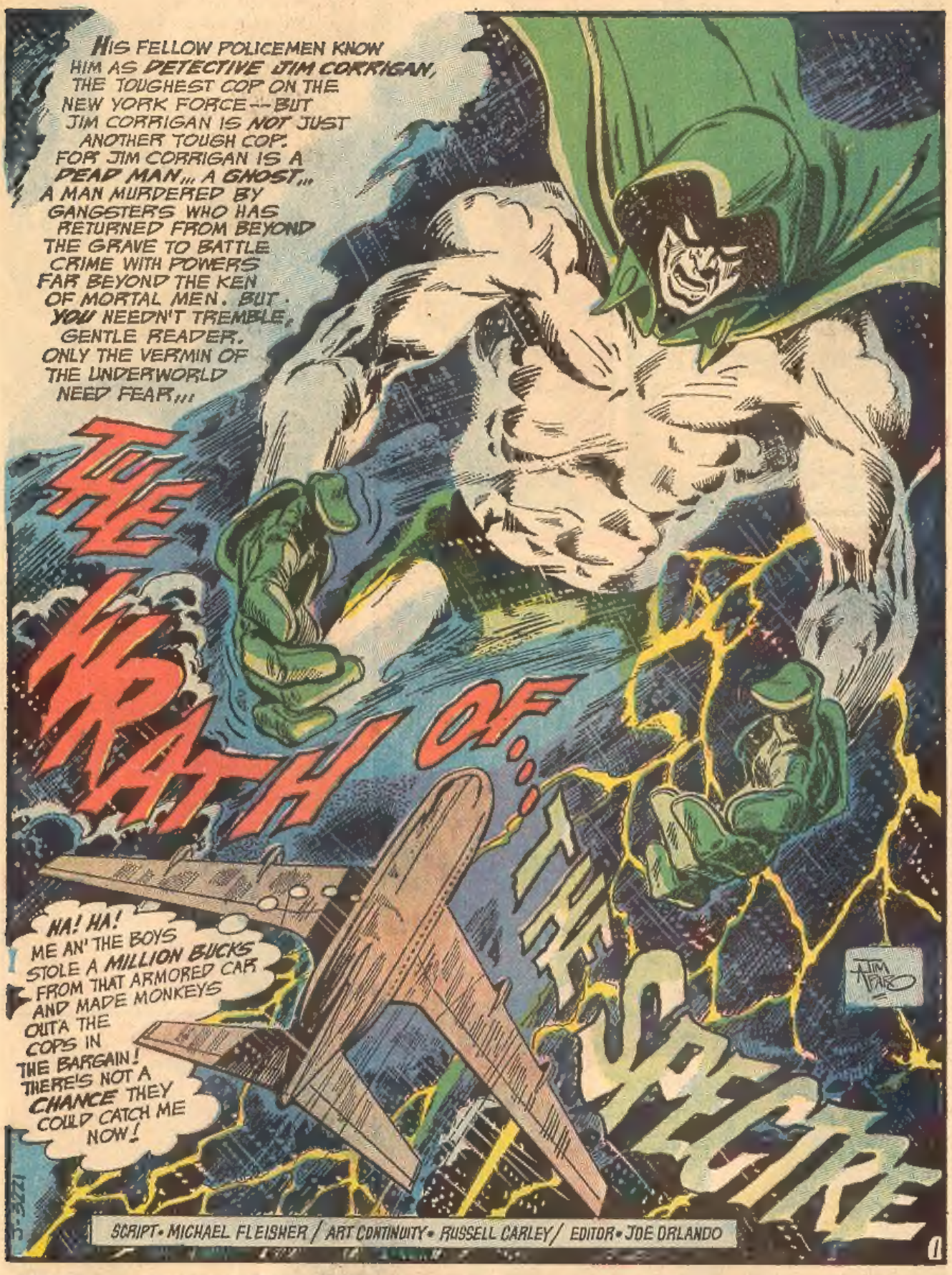
If you think you're that kind of boy, talk it over with your parents. Tell them you understand the responsibility of gun ownership, and are ready to practice it.

When you're ready to learn the lessons a Daisy can teach, we'll have a Daisy ready for you.

Send for "The Air Rifle Marksman." Mail your name, address, and 25c to Daisy, P.O. Box 220, Rogers, Arkansas. 72756.

The B·B Gun every boy dreams about.

Division Victor Comptometer Corporation, Rogers, Arkansas 72756


HIS FELLOW POLICEMEN KNOW HIM AS DETECTIVE JIM CORRIGAN, THE TOUGHEST COP ON THE NEW YORK FORCE -- BUT JIM CORRIGAN IS NOT JUST ANOTHER TOUGH COP. FOR JIM CORRIGAN IS A DEAD MAN... A GHOST... A MAN MURDERED BY GANGSTERS WHO HAS RETURNED FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE TO BATTLE CRIME WITH POWERS FAR BEYOND THE KEN OF MORTAL MEN. BUT - YOU NEEDN'T TREMBLE, GENTLE READER. ONLY THE VERMIN OF THE UNDERWORLD NEED FEAR...
THE WRATH OF THE SPECTRE
HA! HA! ME AN' THE BOYS STOLE A MILLION BUCKS FROM THAT ARMORED CAR AND MADE MONKEYS OUTA THE COPS IN THE BARGAIN! THERE'S NOT A CHANCE THEY COULD CATCH ME NOW!
J-3221
SCRIPT • MICHAEL FLEISHER / ART CONTINUITY • RUSSELL CARLEY / EDITOR • JOE ORLANDO
JIM APARO
1

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FIFTEEN YEARS AS A GUARD, AND I STILL CAN'T GET USED TO DRIVIN' AROUND WITH ALL THIS LOOSE MONEY!
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN!
HUNH--!?
QUICK! HIT THE BRAKE!
WHOOOOM
WE GOT 'EM RIGHT WHERE WE WANT 'EM! NOW-- HIT 'EM WITH THE FIRE-GRENADES!
OKAY! HERE GOES!
THWAK
THWOK
HEY! WE'RE ON FIRE! SOMEBODY'S (KOFF) LOBBIN' GRENADES AT US!
QUICK! (KOFF KOFF) CALL OUR POSITION IN TO (KOFF) SECURITY! SOMEONE'S TRYIN' TA (KOFF KOFF) HOLD US UP!
(KOFF) IT'S NO USE! GOTTA GET OUTA THERE OR WE'LL (KOFF KOFF) ROAST TO DEATH!
OKAY! (KOFF) WE'RE COMING OUT! YOU'VE GOT US! DON'T (KOFF) SHOOT!
N-NO! (KOFF) DON'T-- AARRGH--!
ARGHH
BRAT-TAT-TA
HELP! WE GIVE-- UUNNNH--!!
HEY, FRITZ! WHY'D YA HAVTA GUN 'EM DOWN LIKE THAT IF THEY WAS SURRENDERIN'!!
THEY WAS JUST LIKE COPS, WASN'T THEY? NOW STOP RUNNIN' YER MOUTH LIKE AN EGG-BEATER AND LET'S GO GET THAT MONEY!

SIRENS! THEY MUSTA GOT A CALL THROUGH TO THE LAW! LET'S GET OUTA HERE!
C'MON! MOVE IT!
BLAM BLAM
ARRGGHH--! I'M HIT--!
HEY! PETE'S BEEN HIT!
WAIT! DON'T LEAVE ME! I--
AARRGHH--!
BRAT-TAT-TA
DON'T WORRY ABOUT PETE! HE WON'T TELL THE COPS NUTHIN'!
DO WE CHASE 'EM, OR WHAT?
LET 'EM GO FOR NOW! WE CAN'T COMPETE WITH THAT SUBMACHINE GUN! BESIDES, SOME OF THESE MEN MIGHT NEED HELP!
THIS IS CAR 16, REPORTING AN ARMORED CAR ROBBERY NEAR THE ACCESS BRIDGE ON ROUTE 4! THE FOUR GUARDS ARE ALL DEAD-- ALONG WITH ONE PERPETRATOR! THE OTHER CROOKS ESCAPED WITH THE LOOT! OVER!
3

WE'LL SEND THE MEAT WAGON OUT THERE ALONG WITH SOME BOYS FROM HOMICIDE! YOU JUST STAY PUT FOR NOW!
TEN FOUR!
KLIK
OKAY! TEN FOUR!
PRESENTLY...
I TRIED TO JUST WOUND HIM, LT. CORRIGAN! BUT HIS OWN MEN SHOT HIM TO PIECES SO HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SPILL THE BEANS!
DON'T WORRY, SERGEANT! WE'LL GET THESE BIRDS EVENTUALLY!
PHONE (212) 758-6100
GOLDEN AGE ANTIQUES
WELL WHAT DO YOU KNOW! A CRIMINAL WITH AN INTEREST IN ANTIQUES!
MEANWHILE...
FRITZ! WHY'D YA BLAST ALL THEM GUYS LIKE THAT?
YEAH! AND WHAT ABOUT PETE? WE COULDA HELPED HIM INTO THE CAR AND STILL GOT AWAY OKAY!
PIPE DOWN AND FINISH COUNTIN' OUT THE MONEY, WILLYA? THE HEIST WENT OFF LIKE CLOCKWORK, DIDN'T IT? AND WITH PETE GONE, THERE'S MORE DOUGH FOR ALL OF US, AIN'T THERE?
I WANT YOU GUYS TO TAKE YOUR SHARES AND LAY LOW TILL THE HEAT DIES DOWN!
HANK, YOU GO BACK TO YOUR GARAGE AND GET BACK TO WORK! BUSINESS AS USUAL!
OKAY, FRITZ!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.
4

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These highest-ever profits are waiting for you to collect them *right now*, just as soon as you start to show Merlite Rings to your friends, neighbors, people at work! And we do mean *show* — you don't have to sell these remarkable rings, because they literally sell themselves, and sell themselves FAST, on sight! You don't need a "sales pitch," you don't need to knock on doors, you don't need to do any hard work at all! Just SHOW Merlite Rings to folks you know . . . and watch your money TRIPLE before your very eyes! WE GUARANTEE IT.

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Merlite Rings feature a variety of genuine and simulated stones, including the DIA-SIM®, the fabulous "look-alike" that only a jeweler can distinguish from a natural diamond. Like a diamond, the DIA-SIM® is hard enough to scratch glass . . . yet it's *guaranteed* never to break, chip, or discolor. To bring out all their fiery beauty, we set them in exquisite 10K gold-filled, 18K heavy gold electroplated, and sterling silver mountings. The result: rings which look like they should sell for hundreds, even THOUSANDS of dollars . . . but which you can offer to your customers for only $6.00 to $39.00 each! And remember . . . *every ring they buy from you puts a whopping 200% profit in your pocket!* Sell a $15.00 ring, and pocket $10.00. Sell a $39.00 ring, and pocket $26.00. Sell three, four, five rings in an hour, and you're on your way to Easy Street!

DOZENS AND DOZENS OF FAST-SELLING STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM!

The Merlite Collection includes over 100 of irresistible styles for men, for women, for children, for EVERYBODY! What's more, new styles are constantly being added, plus special promotions to let you cash in BIG on the tremendous buying sprees at Christmas, Valentine Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day. What's more, each Merlite Ring comes complete with a beautiful gift box at no extra cost! When you become a Merlite Jewelry Dealer, every day of the week, every day of the year means profits, profits, and MORE profits . . . profits so huge, so effortless, that you can forget about money worries.

EVERY RING GUARANTEED FOR A LIFETIME!

Every Merlite Ring purchased from you carries with it a written Lifetime Guarantee. Under the terms of this Guarantee, the ring may be returned to Merlite Industries at any time, in any condition, and for a service fee of just $3.00, we will repair it or replace it with a brand-new ring, and return it promptly to the owner. *This sales-clinching Guarantee even applies to rings with missing stones!*

SAME-DAY DELIVERY! FREE DROP-SHIP SERVICE!

What's more, you and your customers won't have to wait for delivery on Merlite Rings! Your orders are processed the same day we receive them, so that shipments are speeding back to you within 24 hours or less. And as an extra FREE service to you, we'll even drop-ship rings directly to your customers, so that YOU don't have to spend your valuable time making deliveries!

YOUR CHOICE OF TWO NO-RISK MONEY-MAKING PLANS!

As a Merlite Jewelry Dealer, there are TWO ways for you to make the most fantastic profits of your life. If you wish you can start without investing one penny in inventory: simply show our gorgeous 44-page, full-color Customer Presentation Catalogue to your customers, collect your money, and forward the orders to us for immediate delivery. Or start with a *protected* inventory of Merlite Rings and make money even faster by offering on-the-spot delivery. If you do decide to start with inventory, you won't be risking a penny: regardless of the size of your first order, we GUARANTEE that you'll sell out quickly and easily within the first 30 days. If not, Merlite Industries will buy back any unsold rings for every penny you paid for them. And under either plan, you make a full 200% profit on each and every sale!

SEND NO MONEY — BUT MAIL COUPON TODAY!

Regardless of which plan you decide to start with, the most important thing is to get started NOW! Just take a moment to fill in and mail the coupon below. By return mail we'll rush you EVERYTHING you need to start making big, easy money next week: the lavish 44-page Customer Presentation Catalogue, an accurate ring-sizer, wholesale order forms, plus full details of our fantastic TRIPLE-YOUR-MONEY Profit Offer. It's all FREE, there's no obligation, and nobody will call on you. Don't miss out on the biggest Profit Bonanza of a lifetime — mail the coupon TODAY!

LUXURIOUS JEWELER'S DISPLAY CASE FREE!

We normally charge $8.00 for this professional jeweler's display case, but it's yours, absolutely FREE when you become a Merlite Ring Dealer under our sensational TRIPLE-YOUR-MONEY Profit Plan. Small enough to carry in your pocket or purse, lined with luxurious black velvet, the case holds 12 rings — sparks instant sales every time you open it! Think of it — a "jewelry shop" you can fit in your pocket . . . and that can turn your spare-time hours into a FULL-TIME income! Just mail the coupon for FREE details!

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114 EAST 32ND STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

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114 East 32nd Street • New York, N.Y. 10016

I'm ready for TRIPLE PROFITS with Merlite Rings! By return mail, rush me everything I need to start cashing in at once, including the lavish full-color Customer's Presentation Catalogue! I understand that everything is FREE and without any obligation on my part!

☐ MR. ☐ MRS. ☐ MISS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

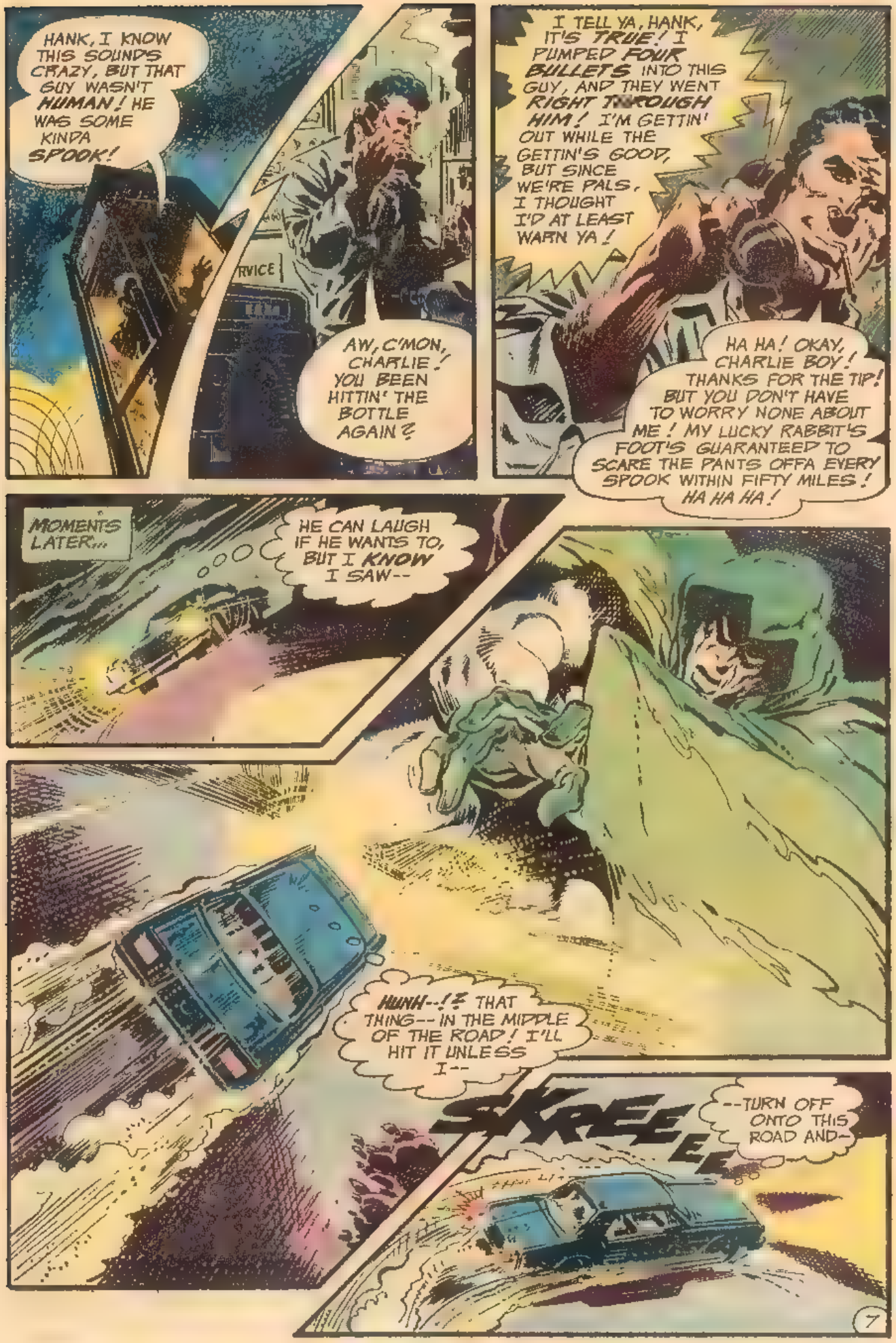
CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

IN CANADA: MOPA CO., LTD., 371 DOWD ST., MONTREAL 128, QUEBEC

OH YEAH! CHARLIE, YOU GO BACK TO RUNNIN' YOUR ANTIQUE STORE HERE LIKE NUTHIN' EVER HAPPENED! ME, I'M GOIN' TA SOUTH AMERICA FOR A LITTLE EXTENDED VACATION!
SOON AS MY MONEY RUNS OUT, I'LL COME BACK TO THE STATES AND WE'LL ALL COOK UP A BRAND-NEW HEIST TOGETHER! HOW'S THAT SOUND?
SOUNDS FINE, FRITZ! ANYTHING YOU SAY!
PRESENTLY...
GOLDEN A
ANTIQU
SPECIALIZIN
RARE AN
THIS IS IT, ALL RIGHT! NOW TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT SCARING UP A LITTLE INFORMATION!
CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
YOU SURE CAN, FELLA!
JUST TELL ME WHO HELPED YOU PULL THAT ARMORED CAR HEIST EARLIER THIS EVENING, AND I'LL SEE TO IT THAT ALL OF YOU GET A CRACK AT THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD!
1973
A-ARMORED C-CAR ROBBERY? WHY... UH... YES... I THINK I CAN HELP YOU! YOU SEE... UH... ONE OF MY CUSTOMERS IS...

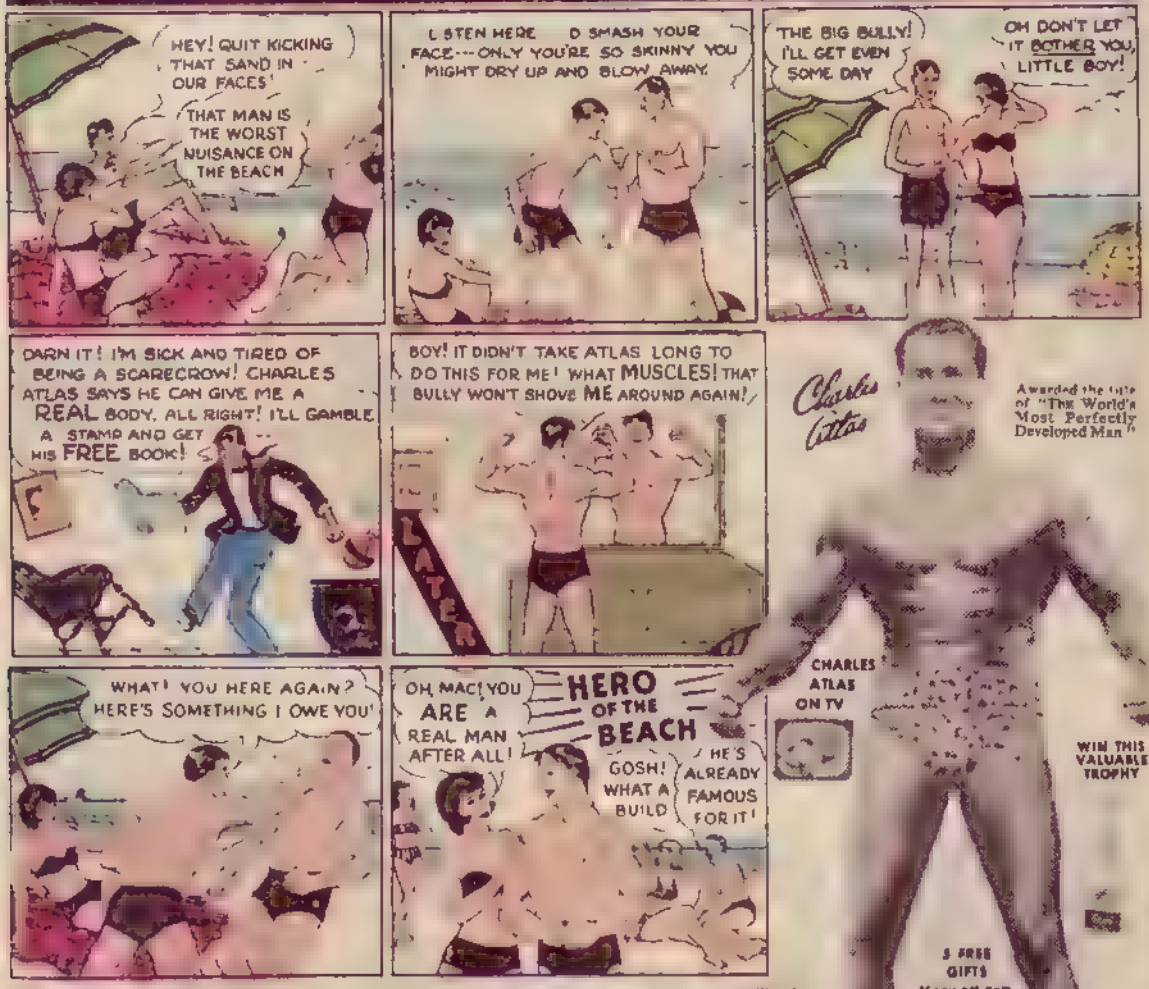
ALL RIGHT, COP! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT ME, BUT I KNOW FOR SURE YOU'LL NEVER FIND OUT ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
THANK YOU, CHARLIE--
--THOSE ARE ALL THE QUESTIONS I HAVE... FOR NOW!
HUNH--!&! H-HE'S FADING AWAY! DIS-APPEARING! L-LIKE S-SOME S-SORTA (GULP!)... GHOST!!
I D-DON'T KNOW W-WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE-- BUT I AIN'T STAYIN' AROUND HERE TO MESS WITH NO SPOOK!
I-I'M TAKIN' MY DOUGH AND MAKIN' MYSELF SCARCE-- RIGHT NOW!
FLEE IF YOU WILL, EVILDOER! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE... THE SPECTRE!
FOR HOURS CHARLIE DROVE AS IF THE HOUNDS OF HADES WERE AFTER HIM, AND FINALLY...
HANK? IT'S ME, CHARLIE! HANK-- I'M SCARED! REAL SCARED! A GUY CAME IN MY STORE AND ACCUSED ME OF BEIN' IN ON THAT ARMORED CAR JOB!
6


HANK, I KNOW THIS SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT THAT GUY WASN'T HUMAN! HE WAS SOME KINDA SPOOK!
AW, C'MON, CHARLIE! YOU BEEN HITTIN' THE BOTTLE AGAIN?
I TELL YA, HANK, IT'S TRUE! I PUMPED FOUR BULLETS INTO THIS GUY, AND THEY WENT RIGHT THROUGH HIM! I'M GETTIN' OUT WHILE THE GETTIN'S GOOD, BUT SINCE WE'RE PALS, I THOUGHT I'D AT LEAST WARN YA!
HA HA! OKAY, CHARLIE BOY! THANKS FOR THE TIP! BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY NONE ABOUT ME! MY LUCKY RABBIT'S FOOT'S GUARANTEED TO SCARE THE PANTS OFFA EVERY SPOOK WITHIN FIFTY MILES! HA HA HA!
MOMENTS LATER...
HE CAN LAUGH IF HE WANTS TO, BUT I KNOW I SAW--
HUNH--!? THAT THING-- IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD! I'LL HIT IT UNLESS I--
SKREEEE
--TURN OFF ONTO THIS ROAD AND-

WAIT! THIS ROAD! THERE AIN'T NO ROAD HERE! IT'S NOTHING BUT A... A...
EEEE

MEN CALL ME... THE SPECTRE!
SP-SPECTRE?! TH-THAT'S SOME KINDA GHOST, AIN'T IT?
WELL, YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET ME, YOU CRUMMY SPOOK! I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL--
BUT YOU CAN'T KILL ME, HANK! YOU SEE, I AM ALREADY DEAD!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WH WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT TO SLEEP FOREVER IN A NICE WARM GRAVE, HANK! I WANT THE EVER-LASTING PEACE THAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE --
--BUT THE STENCH OF EVIL MEN LIKE YOU WILL NOT LET ME REST!
WHA-?! M-MY MACHINE GUN! I-IT'S M-MELTIN'... LIKE A PIECE'A WAX!
M-MY ARMS! THEY'RE MELTIN,' TOO! W-WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO ME?
P-PLEASE! I DIDN'T MEAN NUTHIN'! DON'T MAKE ME MELT LIKE THIS! PLEASE!!
EEEEAAHHH
9

THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC


HEY! QUIT KICKING THAT SAND IN OUR FACES!
THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE I'D SMASH YOUR FACE---ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY.
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND AGAIN!
LATER
WHAT! YOU HERE AGAIN? HERE'S SOMETHING I OWE YOU!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!
HERO OF THE BEACH
GOSH! WHAT A BUILD
HE'S ALREADY FAMOUS FOR IT!
Charles Atlas
Awarded the title of "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man"
CHARLES ATLAS ON TV
WIN THIS VALUABLE TROPHY
5 FREE GIFTS

Let Me PROVE I Can Make YOU A NEW MAN!

ARE you "fed up" with seeing the huskies walk off with the best of everything? Sick and tired of being soft, frail, skinny or flabby – only HALF ALIVE? I know just how you feel. Because I myself was once a puny 97-pound "runt." And I was so ashamed of my scrawny frame that I dreaded being seen in a swim suit.

The Secret of How I Got My Build

Then I discovered a wonderful way to develop my body fast. It worked wonders for me – changed me from the scrawny "runt" I was at 17, into the World's Most Perfectly Developed Man." And I can build up YOUR body the very same natural way – without weights, springs or pulley. Only 15 minutes a day of pleasant practice in the privacy of your room.

My "Dynamic-Tension" method has already helped thousands of other fellows become real he-men in double quick time. Let it help YOU. Not next month or next year – but Right NOW!

"Dynamic-Tension" Builds Muscles FAST!

If you're like I was, you want a powerful, muscular, well-proportioned build you can be proud of any time, anywhere. You want the "Greek-God" type of physique that women rave about at the beach – the kind that makes other fellows green with envy.

Mail Coupon Now for My 32-Page Illustrated Book

Mailing the coupon can be the turning point in your life. I'll send you a copy of my 32-page illustrated book, "How Dynamic-Tension Makes You a NEW MAN." Tells how and why my method works; shows many pictures proving what it has done for others. Don't delay. Mail coupon NOW. CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 81N, 115 E. 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010

CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 81N
115 East 23rd St., New York, N. Y. 10010

Dear Charles Atlas: Here's the kind of Body I Want:

(Check as many as you like)

- ☐ Broader Chest and Shoulders
- ☐ Stronger Arms with Muscles
- ☐ Powerful Legs
- ☐ Slimmer Waist and Legs
- ☐ More Energy and Stamina
- ☐ More Magnetic Personality
- ☐ More Weight – But 6–In the Right Places

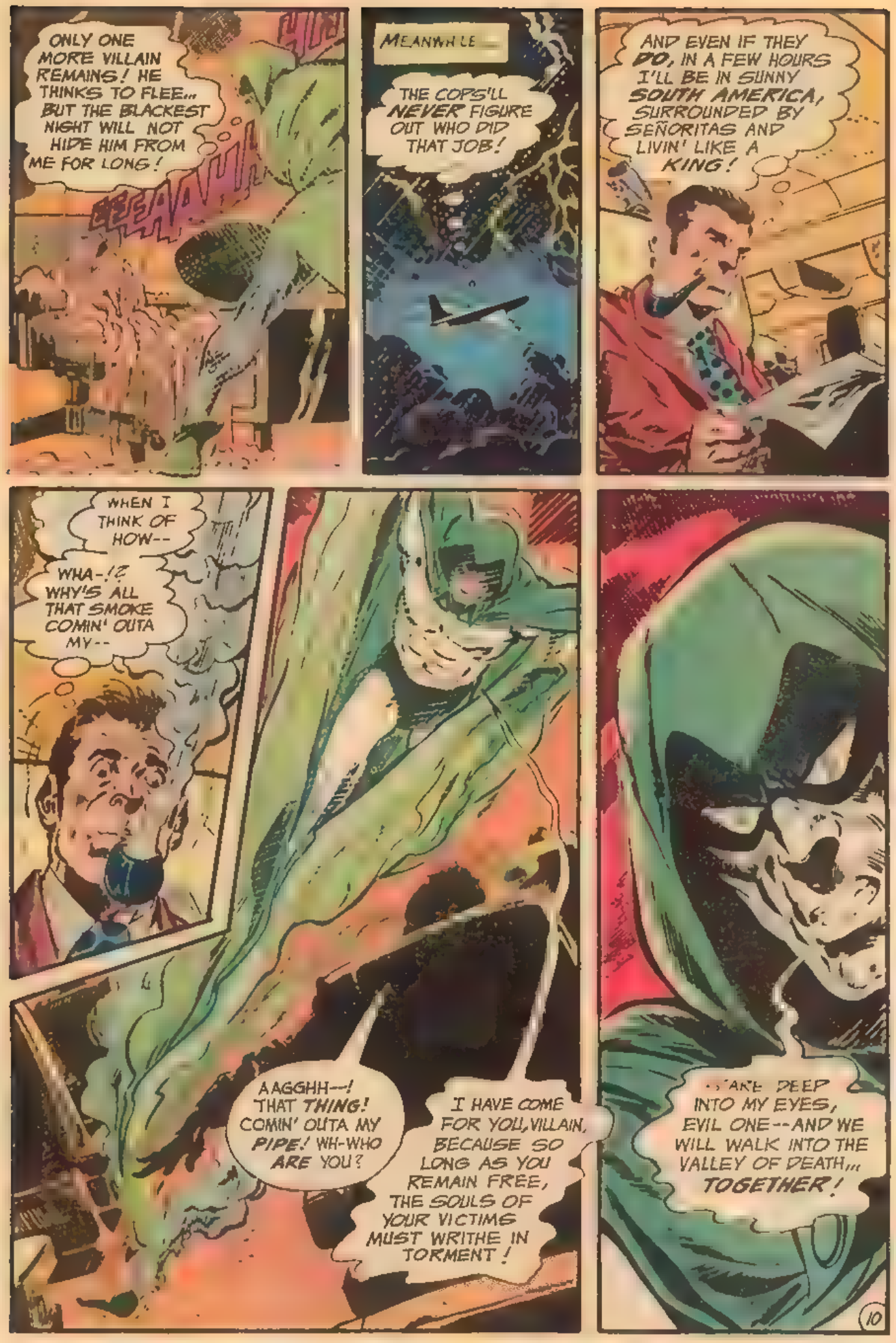
I enclose 10c. Please send me a copy of your famous book showing how "Dynamic-Tension" can make me a new man. 32 Pages crammed with photographs, answers to vital health questions, and

Name ..... Age .....

Address .....

City & State ..... Zip .....

In England: Charles Atlas, 21 Poland St., London, W.1


ONLY ONE MORE VILLAIN REMAINS! HE THINKS TO FLEE... BUT THE BLACKEST NIGHT WILL NOT HIDE HIM FROM ME FOR LONG!
HIYA!
BEEAAHH
MEANWHILE...
THE COPS'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT WHO DID THAT JOB!
AND EVEN IF THEY DO, IN A FEW HOURS I'LL BE IN SUNNY SOUTH AMERICA, SURROUNDED BY SEÑORITAS AND LIVIN' LIKE A KING!
WHEN I THINK OF HOW--
WHA-!? WHY'S ALL THAT SMOKE COMIN' OUTA MY--
AAGGHH--! THAT THING! COMIN' OUTA MY PIPE! WH-WHO ARE YOU?
I HAVE COME FOR YOU, VILLAIN, BECAUSE SO LONG AS YOU REMAIN FREE, THE SOULS OF YOUR VICTIMS MUST WRITHE IN TORMENT!
...ARE DEEP INTO MY EYES, EVIL ONE--AND WE WILL WALK INTO THE VALLEY OF DEATH... TOGETHER!
10

Y-YOU M-MUST BE CRAZY! I'M NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE WITH YOU! DO YOU HEAR ME? I'M NOT GOING ANY- WHERE!
STEWARDESS! STEWARDESS!
YES, SIR? CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
TH-THAT MAN! OVER THERE! H-HE'S THREATENING ME! TRYING TO F-FRIGHTEN ME!
WHAT MAN, SIR? I DON'T SEE ANY MAN!
THE MEN YOU MURDERED ARE WAITING FOR YOU, FRITZ! IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO ... JOIN THEM!
OH YEAH? I'M NOT JOININ' NOBODY, SEE? YOU MAKE ONE MOVE TOWARD ME, AND THIS CHICK E HERE GETS T... RIGHT IN THE HEAD!
S SIR PLEASE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? L-LET ME GO!
THE MAN'S OBVIOUSLY DERANGED! HE'S SUFFERING FROM SOME KIND OF HALLUCINATION!
FAREWELL, MURDERER!

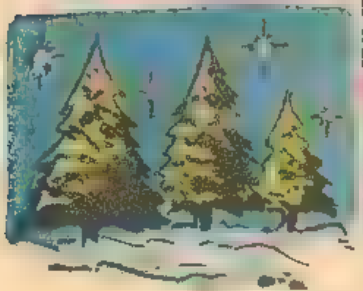
EEEK! THE LIGHTS! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?
SOMEBODY CALL THE CAPTAIN!
EEEAAAHHHH-!!
THANK GOD! THE LIGHTS ARE FINALLY--
GASP!!
EEEEK!
OH MY (ULP!) LORD!!
AAAHHHH--!
GOOD GRIEF!!
THE NEXT MORNING...
CORRIGAN! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF MY BEST DETECTIVES! WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO COME THROUGH WITH A DECENT LEAD ON THOSE ARMORED CAR ROBBERS?
DON'T WORRY, CHIEF--
--WE'VE GOT THE ENTIRE CITY SEALED OFF! THOSE MUGGS DON'T HAVE A GHOST OF A CHANCE!
I DON'T GIVE A TINKER'S DAMN ABOUT SEALING THE CITY, CORRIGAN! I WANT THOSE GUYS CAUGHT!
YES, SIR!
The End

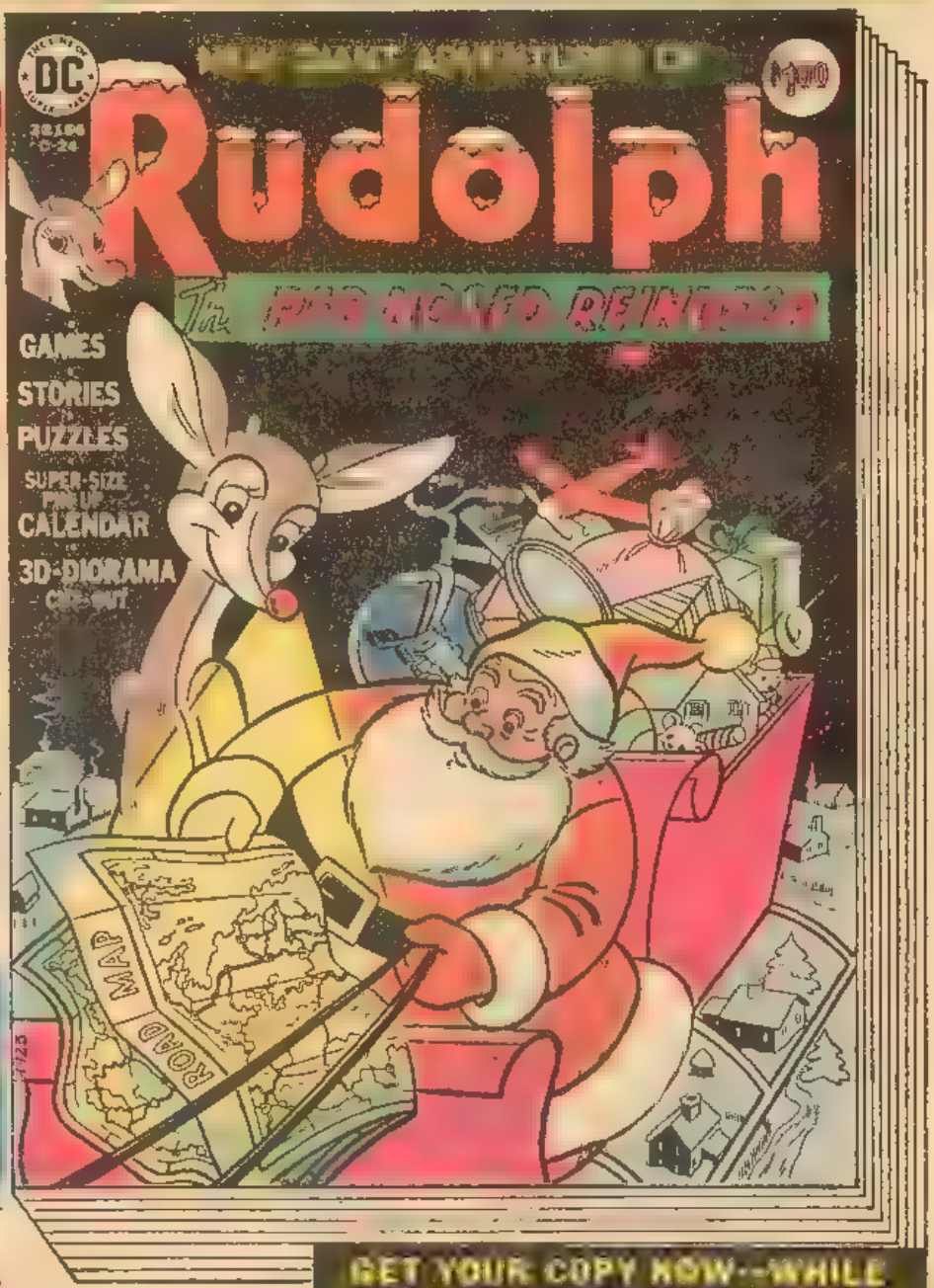
FOR THE MERRIEST XMAS FROM DC

RUDOLPH IS BACK...

in our FANTASTIC NEW SUPER-SIZE!

10⅛" x 13¾"





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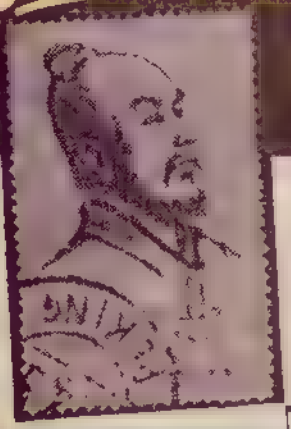

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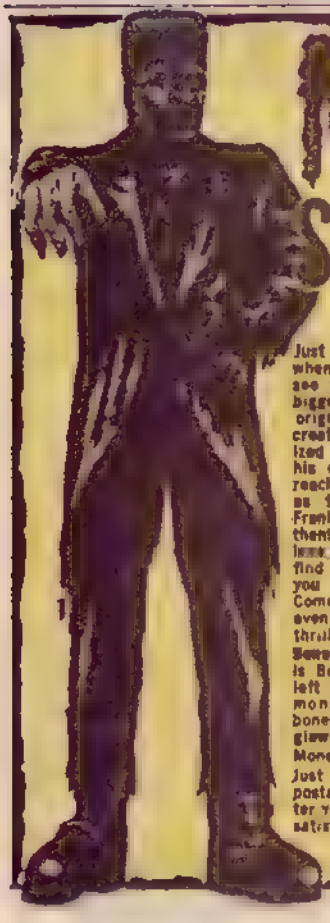

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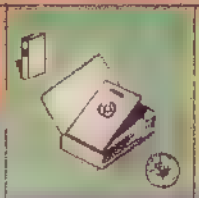

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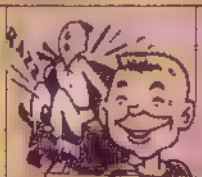

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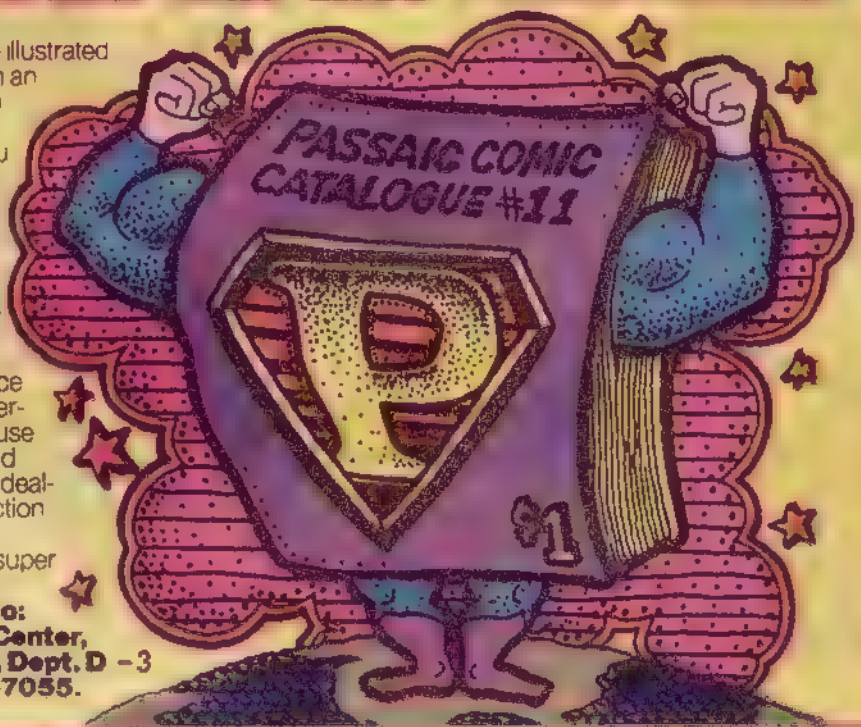

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THE ANSWER IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK! READ ON...

GOOD SNERL! YOU WON AGAIN!
YOU'LL GET GOOD FOOD TONIGHT! AND I'LL EVEN LET YOU SEE YOUR FAMILY!
SURPRISE! I WAS PERMITTED ANOTHER VISIT!
SO SOON?
OH, TARSUS, IS IT WISE TO WIN SO OFTEN?
OF COURSE! HOW ELSE CAN I GET TO SEE YOU BOTH?
BUT YOU'RE BECOMING A VERY VALUABLE SNERL!
SUPPOSE MR. JONAS DECIDES TO SELL YOU?
THEN WE'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
SNERL DEPENDENT PEN
OH, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH!
ALL RIGHT! 3000 ZEMS AND MY OWN SNERL, IN EXCHANGE--
...FOR YOURS, JONES!
DONE!
TAKE HIM!
HE'S YOURS!
NO! NO!
QUIET, BEAST!

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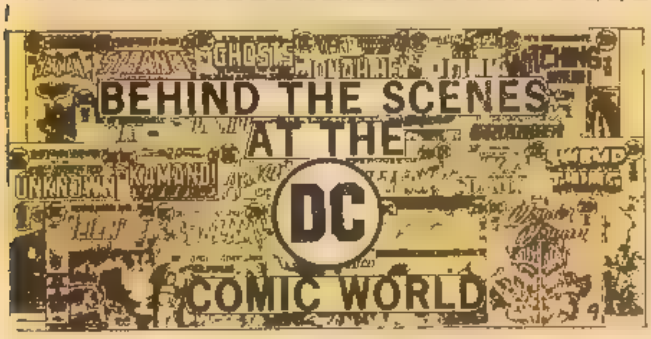
64 ☐ WEIRD WAR TALES



HERE COMES THE COMICS-MAN!

Have you ever had trouble finding a store that carries DC Comics magazines? Have you ever had a hard time locating a particular issue that just didn't seem to go on sale anywhere? Then, it's time you heard about DC's latest and greatest project, the COMICMOBILE!

Over the past two years, DC's Vice-President and Production Manager, Sol Harrison, has received hundreds of letters from readers who have had difficulty in locating the DC line of comics. One answer to the problem appeared to be subscriptions, and all DC mags began carrying the proper form offering fifteen issues for $3.00. Realizing that few readers could afford to subscribe to all the titles they collect at once, Mr. Harrison developed the totally unique concept of the COMICMOBILE with the blessing of Carmine Infantino, the publisher of DC, and it was all systems go!

Picture, if you will, a brightly decorated van, covered with all the heroes and heroines comprising the DC line of super-stars. With a blaring "Here Comes the Comics-Man!" wrapped around the Supervan, and with covers of the latest issues filling the windows, the project that in test had been known as Solly's Folly around the office began taking our comic magazines right to neighborhood streets and appears to be a stunning success.

Test sites were carefully chosen in the Long Island and New Jersey areas where comics were not distributed. Could comic books be brought to the people the way ice cream is? The answer is yes! Readers from three to ninety-three kept coming back to the COMICMOBILE for their favorite DC magazines, every one from Action to Young Romance, every character from Atom to Zatanna.

Inside, the van is decorated with posters of Batman, Robin, Superman and Plop!, the number one selling comic book so far in the Comicmobile's journeys. Original artwork and pictures of Superman line the interior along with giant buttons proclaiming "Shazam Is Coming!"

While stopping at day camps, parks, beaches and the New York Giants Summer training camp, the COMICMOBILE has run Superman cartoons to entertain its customers in between purchases of comics. T-shirts, pennants and souvenirs from the Amazing World of Superman in Metropolis, Illinois.

Messrs. Harrison and Infantino may well revolutionize comic magazine distribution with their possible plans of beginning a fleet of COMICMOBILES all around the country. Not only can we at DC tell which of our mags the readers are buying, but we can also see just who is reading them and get direct feedback from these fans. Our ultimate goal is to make sure that every adult and child who wants comic magazines can find them. Yet, while we send out our COMICMOBILES to a few cities we want to help our readers anywhere who have problems finding our comics. If your area is not getting comic books or if you can't locate all the titles you want, send a letter describing the trouble spot to: The DC COMICMOBILE, c/o Sol Harrison, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019.

Meanwhile, keep your ears open for a ringing bell and the words "Faster than a speeding bullet . . ." echoing down your street. The DC COMICMOBILE may be coming to *your* neighborhood next!

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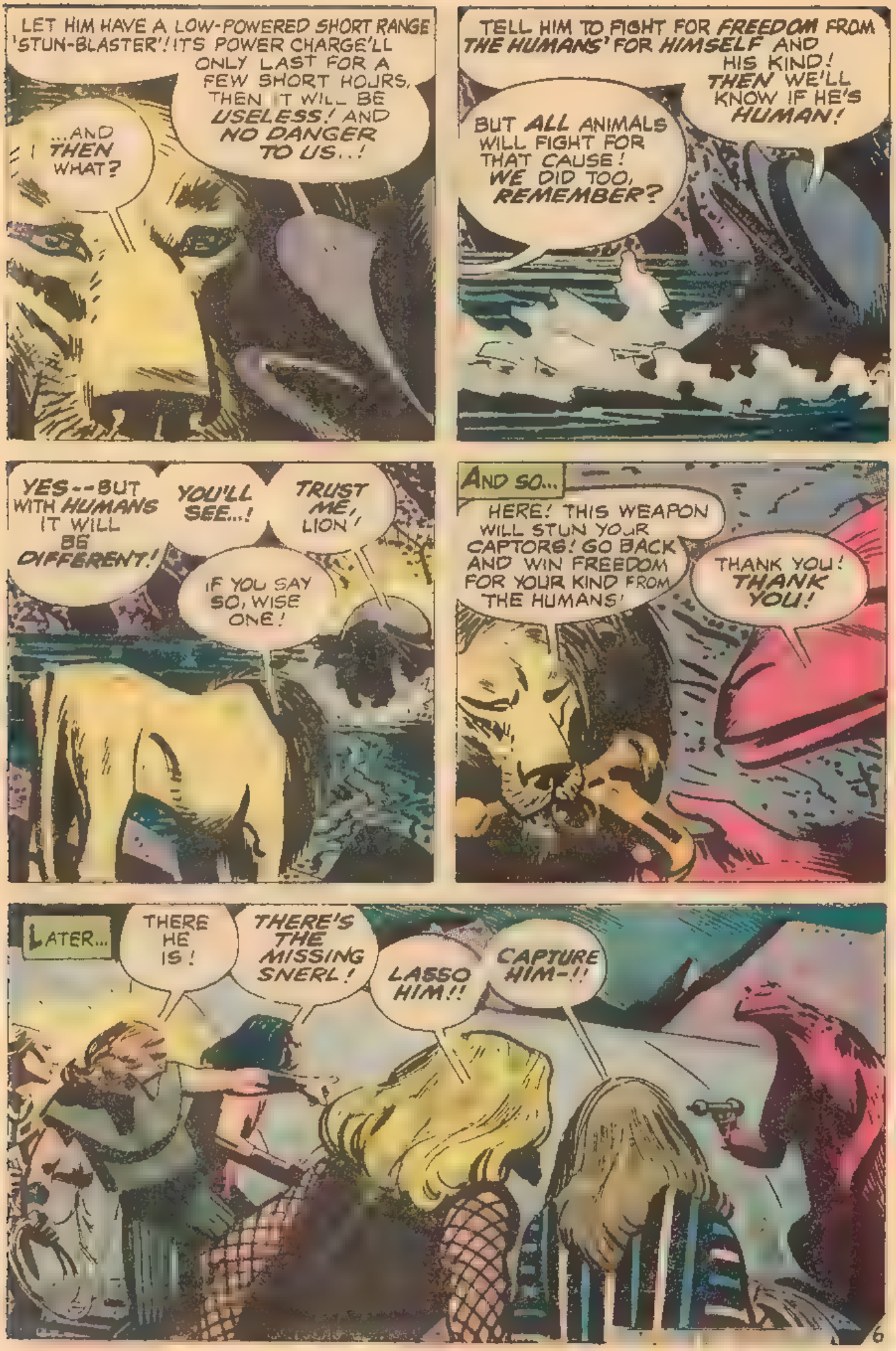
AHRRR!!
EASY—! QUIET, DOWN!
STOP HIM! HE'S GETTING AWAY!
HE'S HEADING FOR THE BARRIER!
SADDLE UP! IF HE REACHES IT, WE'VE LOST HIM FOREVER!
RIGHT! THOSE BEASTS WON'T LET HUMANS GO BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS!
SEE HIM?
NOT A SIGN!
HE MUST'VE MADE IT TO THE OTHER SIDE!
WE'VE LOST HIM, THEN!
UNLESS HE RETURNS TO RESCUE HIS FAMILY!! THEN, WE'LL GET HIM!
HALT, HUMAN! THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO! THIS IS A BEAST SANCTUARY!
BUT I'M NOT HUMAN! I'M A SNERL!!
WHAT'S A SNERL?
3

A SNERL IS A BEAST, OF COURSE...!
CAN'T YOU SEE?
I'M COVERED WITH FUR!
BUT YOU WALK UPRIGHT... LIKE A HUMAN! WHAT DO YOU THINK, FEX?
BETTER TAKE HIM TO THE COUNCIL!
AND SO...
YOUR EXCELLENCIES, THIS CREATURE WANTS TO LIVE ON OUR SIDE OF THE BARRIER—!
-- SAYS HE'S PEACEFUL!
LET HIM SPEAK FOR HIMSELF.
...WHAT SORT OF CREATURE ARE YOU, STRANGER?
I'M A SNERL!
THERE ARE MANY MORE OF MY KIND WHO LIVE AS CAPTIVES OF THE HUMANS!
IN HARNESSES LIKE MINE!
THAT'S AGAINST OUR LAW! ALL THE HIGHER ANIMALS MUST BE PROTECTED FROM HUMANS!...
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG TO ESCAPE?
THEY HAVE WHIPS, ROPES, CHAINS!--AND BESIDES, NONE OF US WAS EVER ANGRY ENOUGH TO THINK OF ESCAPE BEFORE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HE SOUNDS PEACEFUL ENOUGH TO ME!
DON'T LET THAT FOOL YOU! HE WALKS UPRIGHT!... LIKE A HUMAN... I DON'T TRUST HIM!
NEITHER DO I! HOW CAN WE BE SURE HE'S NOT A HUMAN?
DIFFICULT QUESTION! LET'S TAKE HIM TO THE WISE ONE!
GOOD IDEA!
SHE'LL KNOW..
--WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW IS THIS, WISE ONE... HOW CAN WE BE SURE THIS CREATURE IS NOT HUMAN?
SIMPLE!
TEST HIM!
HOW CAN WE DO THAT?
COME CLOSER... AND I'LL WHISPER!
THERE ARE STILL SOME HUMAN WEAPONS LEFT FROM BEFORE THE "BIG TURN-ABOUT", AREN'T THERE?
OH, YES... BUT THEY'RE HIDDEN! YOU WOULDN'T TRUST HIM WITH A WEAPON, WOULD YOU?
5


LET HIM HAVE A LOW-POWERED SHORT RANGE 'STUN-BLASTER'! ITS POWER CHARGE'LL ONLY LAST FOR A FEW SHORT HOURS, THEN IT WILL BE USELESS! AND NO DANGER TO US..!
...AND THEN WHAT?
TELL HIM TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM FROM THE HUMANS' FOR HIMSELF AND HIS KIND! THEN WE'LL KNOW IF HE'S HUMAN!
BUT ALL ANIMALS WILL FIGHT FOR THAT CAUSE! WE DID TOO, REMEMBER?
YES--BUT WITH HUMANS IT WILL BE DIFFERENT!
YOU'LL SEE...!
TRUST ME, LION!
IF YOU SAY SO, WISE ONE!
AND SO...
HERE! THIS WEAPON WILL STUN YOUR CAPTORS! GO BACK AND WIN FREEDOM FOR YOUR KIND FROM THE HUMANS!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
LATER...
THERE HE IS!
THERE'S THE MISSING SNERL!
LASSO HIM!!
CAPTURE HIM-!!

"I'm sick and tired of my Job!"
DON'T FORGET, DEAR, WE'VE GOT A DATE FOR THE MOVIES WITH JIM AND HELEN TONIGHT
AW, HONEY, I'M BUSHED. THAT LOUSY JOB OF MINE...
PLEASE, DEAR. BESIDES, WE DON'T GET OUT THAT OFTEN...
OH, ALL RIGHT
LATER
SAY, JIM AND HELEN HAVE A NICE PLACE HERE. WONDER WHERE HE GETS THE MONEY?
OH, JIM IS IN ELECTRONICS NOW
YOU SEEM MIGHTY HAPPY IN ELECTRONICS, JIM. LEVEL WITH ME - HOW'D YOU BREAK IN?
EASIER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK. WITH CIE TRAINING, I LEARNED EVERYTHING I NEEDED RIGHT AT HOME... IN MY SPARE TIME!
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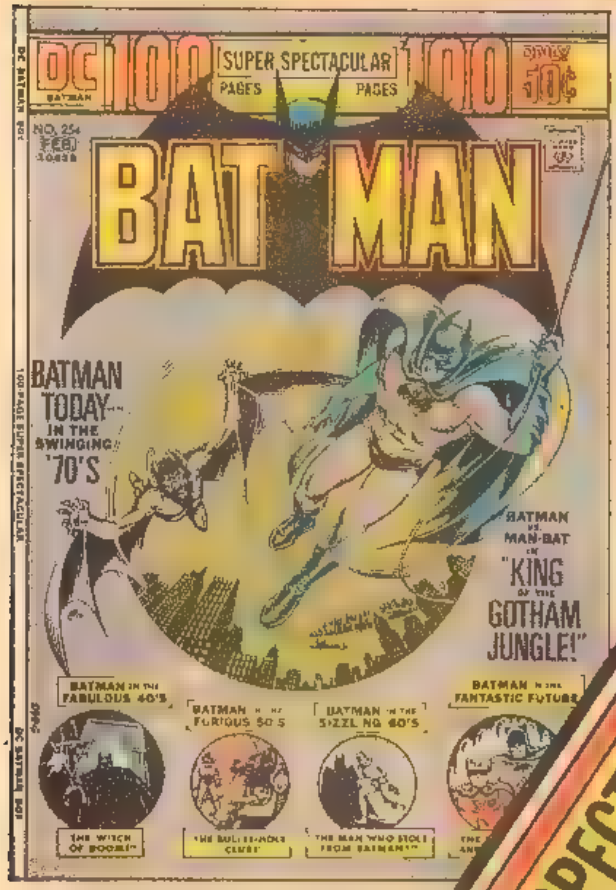
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THE DEMON IN THE MIRROR
13 HAUNTING TALES OF SUSPENSE!

ON SALE OCT. 16

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THIS DOUBLE-TREAT!

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
ZAP
COME, WINGA! WE ARE FREE! BRING THE LITTLE ONE!
TARSUS! IT'S YOU!!
BUT, HOW?
NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS! JUST FOLLOW ME!
SNERLS!
FOLLOW ME! YOU ARE ALL FREE!
YOU'RE MAD, TARSUS!
HERE COME THE HUMANS!
...WITH WHIPS AND ROPES!

AND I HAVE THIS! SEE?
TARSUS, YOU'VE DONE IT! WE'RE FREE!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
COME - LET US LEAVE HERE, AND GO LIVE IN PEACE AND FREEDOM BEYOND THE BARR ER WITH THE OTHER GOOD BEASTS!
WAIT!! I HAVE A BETTER IDEA!!
MANY MONTHS LATER...
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT SA'ERL, TARSUS? DID HE AND HIS KIND WIN THEIR FREEDOM?
OH, YES! BUT DIDN'T YOU HEAR? -- HE TURNED OUT TO BE HUMAN, AFTER ALL!
REALLY? HOW DO YOU KNOW?!
LOOK DOWN THERE AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!
BRAVO!
TARSUS' TEAM WINS AGAIN!
OH, MY! HE'S HUMAN, ALL RIGHT!
EVERY INCH!
END
NEXT ISSUE ON DALE DURING THE FOURTH WEEK IN DECEMBER

DC TAKES A GIANT STEP IN '74!

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

J-3322

Dear Editor,

I hear that the Spectre is returning in Adventure #431. Please remember that the Spectre died in the JLA a few years ago.

Jim True, Concord, Mass.

Dear Jim,

I'll give you your choice of the two explanations floating around the office. Writer Mike Fleisher prefers the version that says "Denny O'Neil killed him and stuck him in that crypt—let him get him out!" A more logical version is that these are adventures that the Spectre was involved in before he was imprisoned.

* * * * *

Dear Joe,

The new Adventure Comics has great potential and I'm hoping that you start using material up to that potential. I can't say much for the Adventurers' Club or Captain Fear (other than the excellent art on both strips).

The Black Orchid was a step in the right direction and I hope to see more new super-heroes (or heroines) in Adventure. The Orchid had just the right mixture of super-heroine action and mystery with excellent DeZuniga art to top it all off.

I'd also like to see some more of the old super-heroes like Aquaman come back.

David Kell, Fairview, Pa.

Dear David,

There's a chance that Aquaman may return soon, although not necessarily in Adventure. He's slated for a near-future appearance in Secret Origins, *and may find that a springboard to greater fame. Of course, the fact that he's one of the characters on the new TV series "Superfriends" might help, too.*

* * * * *

Dear Joe,

Adventure #428 was a pretty good magazine. Tony DeZuniga's art was absolutely stupendous, especially the layouts. The writing was above par. I suspect it was either Steve Skeates or DeZuniga himself. The Black Orchid, however, is an absolute bomb! The character would be quickly worn out in a regular series. She is little more than a combination of Supergirl and the Phantom Stranger. With Wonder Woman's return to full powers and Supergirl's gaining her own magazine, I see only a slight need for a new female lead feature. I see even less of a need for another mysterious hero, with the Phantom Stranger and The Shadow already stepping on each others' toes.

The supporting cast was overly cliched to the point of being unbelievable; crooked politicians are one thing, but nobody actually believes that there are murderers in politics. It was these overly biased stereotypes that made me think of Steve Skeates as a possible author.

Like I said earlier, DeZuniga's art was stupendous and he deserves his own series—but not the Black Orchid.

Chip Beatler, Address Unknown

Dear Chip,

The "above par" scripting on the Black Orchid is the work of Shelly Mayer, long-time National staff writer. As for DeZuniga and series stories, he's still working on Jonah Hex for Weird Western Tales, and there's some hope that he'll do more Black Orchid stories in the future.

* * * * *

Dear Joe,

Shelly Mayer's script for The Black Orchid story in Adventure #428 reeked of nostalgia—not of a certain character, nor even a situation—it's just that Black Ordchid could very well have been pubbed in the early '40s. That's *not* a derogatory statement. I'm of the opinion that for any super-hero to survive today, complicated relevancy must go! Black Orchid is a return to the days when Shelly Mayer was an editor of stories and characters simple enough to entertain. Arousing memories of ancient pulp heroes whose identities, purposes, and abilities were never revealed, the Black Orchid seems to have much more potential. Your danger there is one of tedium from too many identity-mystery teasers, but you're on the right track.

Mike Tiefenbacher, Menomonee Falls, Wis.

* * * * *

Dear Joe,

I just picked up the latest issue of Adventure and I want to compliment you on the fantastic Black Orchid story. I hope you make it a permanent feature in Adventure. Other feature ideas might be the JSA, the Teen Titans, Captain Marvel Jr. and Mary Marvel.

Stuart Rockafellow, Farmington, Mich.

Dear Stuart,

No plans for the JSA or TT, but both Captain Marvel Jr. and Mary Marvel will be starring in solo adventures in Shazam. The reaction to the Black Orchid was mixed, running about 2 to 1 in favor of the strip.

* * * * *

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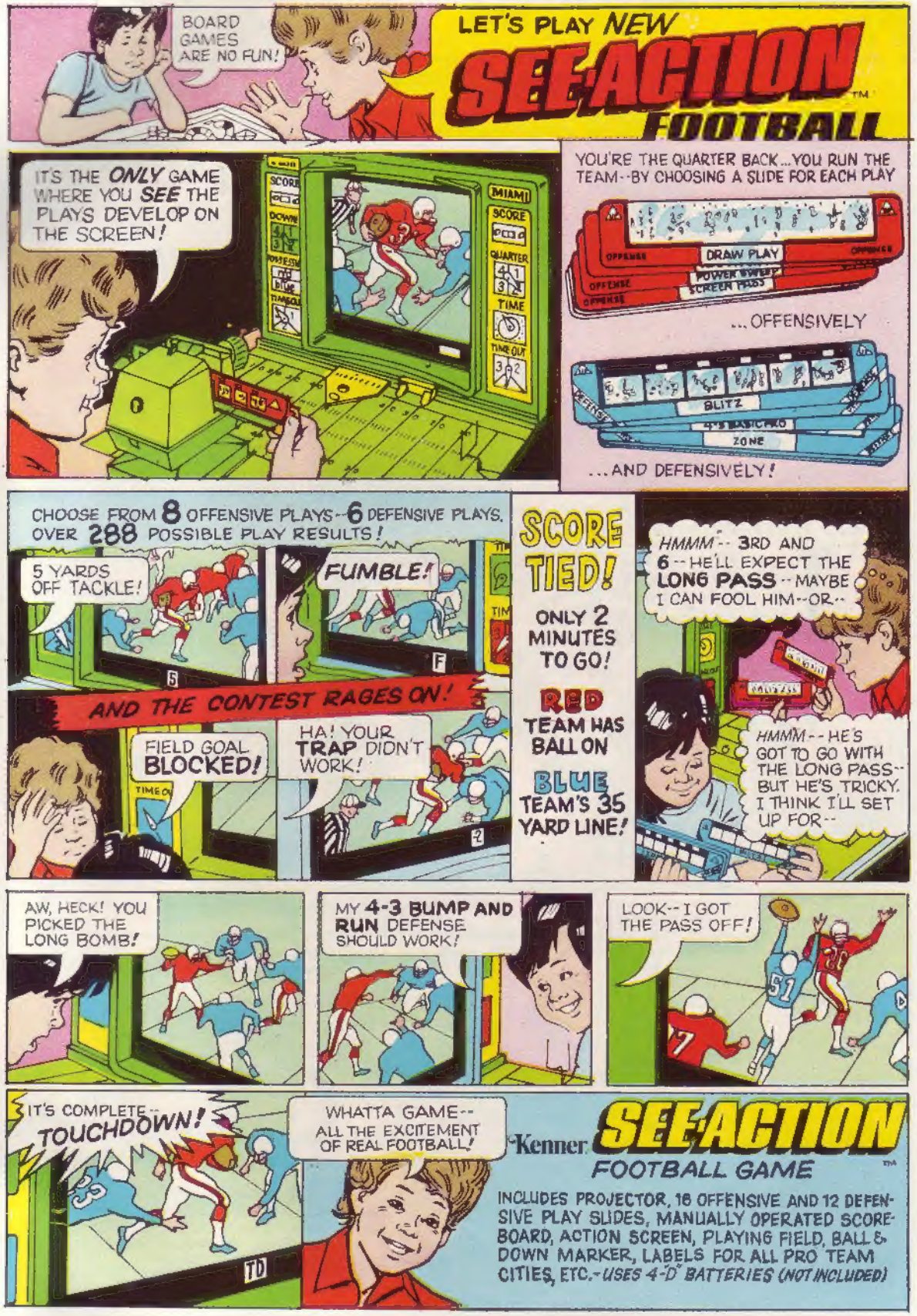
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